

House Bill 1284 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Silcox of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, Burns of the 159<sup>th</sup>, Parrish of the 158<sup>th</sup>, Erwin of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Donatucci of the 105<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to local boards of education, so as to provide for the awarding of high school  
3 diplomas to high school students who are at the end of life; to provide for waivers; to provide  
4 for posthumous awarding of such diplomas; to provide for policies, rules, and regulations;  
5 to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to  
6 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Gakobe Milton Act."

10 **SECTION 2.**

11 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local  
12 boards of education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

13 "20-2-70.1.

14 Each local board of education shall issue a high school diploma to a student enrolled in a  
15 high school program who has a medical diagnosis of a terminal condition and is receiving

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16 end-of-life care. The parent or guardian of any such student shall submit to the appropriate  
17 local school superintendent a written request for a high school diploma to be awarded to  
18 the student prior to the end of his or her life. Such written request shall include  
19 documentation from the student's medical provider stating the student's end-of-life health  
20 status. Within 14 calendar days of receiving such written request, the local board of  
21 education shall petition the State Board of Education to waive the requirements of high  
22 school graduation credits for the student. Upon approval of such waiver by the State Board  
23 of Education, the local board of education shall award a high school diploma to the student.  
24 Although every effort should be made for the high school diploma to be awarded to the  
25 student before the end of his or her life, high school diplomas may be posthumously  
26 awarded pursuant to this Code section. The State Board of Education shall adopt any  
27 policies, rules, or regulations necessary to ensure prompt compliance with this Code  
28 section."

29

**SECTION 3.**

30 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.